

Memorandum

To : The Conservancy
The Advisory Committee

Date: October 20, 2008

From :  Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Hon. ASLA, Executive Director

Subject: **Agenda Item 14: Consideration of resolution adopting an amended project plan for the Los Angeles River Center and Gardens, Los Angeles.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Conservancy adopt the attached resolution recommending adopting an amended project plan for the Los Angeles River Center and Gardens, Los Angeles.

Legislative Authority: Section 33209 of the Public Resources Code provides, in part, as follows:

Every project submitted for funding pursuant to section 33208 shall have an adopted project plan...

Background: At the October 28, 1999 board meeting, the Conservancy approved the project plan for the Los Angeles River Center and Gardens (at that time called Lawry's California Center). At the February 26, 2001 board meeting, the Conservancy adopted an amended project plan for the proposed expansion of the Los Angeles River Center and Gardens to include a ranger residence.

This action further amends the Los Angeles River Center and Gardens project plan to include planned improvements to the tennis courts currently located on the south east edge of the property. Prior to this amendment, the final use of existing tennis court area of the Los Angeles River Center and Gardens had not been specified in the project plan. The proposed use of the tennis court area is a futsal court with artificial turf and a landscaped open space that will include educational elements and a cistern to capture rainfall

The existing concrete tennis court at the Los Angeles River Center and Gardens will be used as a base for a new soccer field. The net and posts were removed several years ago. The soccer field is also referred to as a "futsal court" since it is not full regulation size. The play surface includes the use of materials made from recycled athletic shoes. Funding for the artificial turf installation has been provided by a grant from NIKE, Inc. and LA84. Funding for the cistern and educational elements has been requested from the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy.

The water conservation element increases the environmental benefits of the soccer field project. An underground cistern will capture and collect all rainfall that falls onto the court. The collected water would then be used for irrigation of the adjacent planted space. An interpretive element would also be added in close proximity to the futsal court and its users, in the form of an educational panel that will contain information about water supply and water quality issues. This project presents an opportunity to increase the River Center's sustainability and create a multi-benefit project.